(d) Voluntary organisations are welcome to render help in this regard.

Effects of eucalyptus trees on water level

1060. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey or study has been undertaken in the country to find out the effects of planting eucalyptus trees on the water level of the soil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Govermnent considers that such a study is necessary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)The effect of eucalyptus trees on the water level of the soil depends on many factors like the planting density, what it is replacing and the nature of the land on which it is planted. One has to look at the total water balance, including the impact of transpiration losses and the extent of percolation into the soil.

(c) This as well as other similar subjects are always under study.

Pollution of Chambal river

1061. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Automobile Complex at Pithampur near Indore which is fast coming up is likely to pollute the Chambal river which is nearby;

(b) if so, whether adequate measures have been taken to prevent pollution of the Chambal river; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in negative what are the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to take some measures to prevent pollution of the river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Industry has to meet the prescribed standards and take the consent of the State Pollution Control Board before discharging its effluents into the river.

The measures taken to prevent river pollution include:

(i) Effluent standards have been prescribed;

(ii) Industries are directed to comply with the standards;

(iii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control devices; and

(iv) Legal action is taken against defaulting units.

Wood used for packing purpose

1062. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wood which is obtained by deforestation in mainly used for packing purpose;

(b) if so, whether it is also the main cause for destruction of our forest wealth;

(c) whether Government have any plan to encourge use of synthetic material for packing purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Manufacture of packing cases is one of the important end uses of wood.

(b) No, Sir.